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ABSTRACT

This bulletin presents findings from the fifth Annual Survey of Jails. The survey was developed to provide an estimate of the country's jail inmate population in the years between National Jail Censuses which are conducted every 5 years, the last being in 1983. These findings are summarized: (1) at midyear 1987 local jails held 295,873 inmates, an 8% increase over the previous year; (2) the average daily population was 290,300, an increase of 9% from 1986; (3) on June 30, 1987 convicted inmates made up 48% of the adults with a known conviction status; (4) males accounted for 92% of the jail inmate population, with the number of adult female inmates in local jails increasing 53% since 1983; (5) during the year ending June 30, 1987 there were an estimated 17 million admissions and releases from local jails; (6) the number of jail inmates increased 32% since 1983, while the total rated capacity of the nation's jails rose 15%; (7) on June 30, 1987 over 75% of the nation's jail population was housed in jails of 358 jurisdictions, each with an average daily population of at least 100 inmates; (8) approximately 87% of the jurisdictions with large jail populations had one or more jails holding inmates for other authorities, about the same as in 1980; (9) occupancy exceeded rated capacity by about 11% among jurisdictions with large jail populations; and (10) approximately 41% of the jurisdictions with large jail populations reported at least one jail with an inmate death. Methodology is summarized and tables illustrate the findings. (ABL)

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Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

Jail Inmates 1987

At midyear 1987 local jails in the United States held an estimated 295,873 persons, 8% more than a year earlier. Overall jail occupancy was 98% of the rated capacity of the Nation's jails. The average daily jail population for the year ending June 30, 1987, was 290,300, a 28% increase since 1983.¹ These findings are from the 1987 Annual Survey of Jails, which obtained data from 1,135 jails in 866 jurisdictions, a representative sample of the Nation's jails. Approximately one-third of the jails across the country were surveyed.²

Other survey findings include:

- During the year ending June 30, 1987, there were 17 million jail admissions and releases.
- Males constituted 92% and females 8% of all jail inmates. Whites were 77% of the local jail population; blacks, 12%; and other races, 1%. Hispanics were 14% of all inmates.
- Unconvicted inmates (those on trial or awaiting arraignment or trial) were 52% of the adults being held in jails; convicted inmates (those awaiting or serving a sentence or those returned to jail for violating probation or parole) were 48%.
- Jails were operating at 98% of capacity in 1987, up from 85% in 1983.
- There were 358 jurisdictions with at least 100 jail inmates as an average daily population in the most recent census (1983). In 1987 these jurisdictions operated 611 jails, which held a total of 224,811 inmates, or about 76% of all

¹For a complete enumeration of jail inmates from the 1978 and 1983 jail censuses and the 1984-87 Annual Survey of Jails, see appendix table.

²For a definition of local jails, see Methodology.

December 1988

This bulletin presents findings from the fifth Annual Survey of Jails. The survey was developed to provide an estimate of the country's jail inmate population in the years between National Jail Censuses, which are conducted every 5 years. The last census was in 1983, and another is under way this year.

BJS efforts to collect accurate information on jail populations are vital to policymakers and the general public in assessing the demands placed on correctional resources.

The Annual Survey of Jails was made possible through the cooperation of local jail administrators across the country whose facilities were selected for inclusion in the survey.

Joseph M. Bessette
Acting Director

jail inmates in the country. In these jurisdictions:

- The overall occupancy rate was 111% of rated capacity;
- 87% of the jurisdictions held inmates for other authorities;
- Of the 26,838 inmates held for other authorities in 1987, 11,257 were being held because of crowding elsewhere, principally in State prisons;
- 28% of the jurisdictions had at least one jail under court order to limit population, and 33% were under court order to improve one or more conditions of confinement;

--41% of the jurisdictions reported at least one jail with an inmate death during the year. There were a total of 312 inmate deaths, up 13% from the preceding year. Of these deaths, 55% were from natural causes. Suicides were up 4%, from 107 in 1986 to 111 in 1987.

One-day counts

On June 30, 1987, the estimated number of inmates held in local jails was 295,873, an increase of 8% over the number held on that day a year earlier (table 1). Between 1983, the year of the most recent full census of jails, and 1987, the Nation's jail population increased 32%, for an average annual rate of 8%. One in every 612 adult residents of the United States were in jail on June 30, 1987.

Most juveniles in correctional custody are housed in juvenile facilities. Fewer than 1% of the inmates of the Nation's jails in 1987 were juveniles. An estimated 1,781 juveniles were housed in adult jails across the country on June 30, 1987.³

Average daily population

The average daily population for the year ending June 30, 1987, was 290,300, an increase of 9% from 1986.⁴ The average daily population for males increased 26% since 1983; during the same period of time, the female average daily population increased 55%. The average daily juvenile population for the year ending June 30, 1987, was 1,575.

³For a definition of juveniles, see Methodology.

⁴For a discussion of the differences between 1-day counts and average daily population counts, see Methodology.

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Adult conviction status

On June 30, 1987, convicted inmates made up 48% of the adults with a known conviction status (table 2). The number of convicted inmates increased 29% since 1983. From 1986 to 1987 the number of convicted females increased 6%. Convicted inmates include those awaiting sentencing or serving a sentence and those returned to jail because they violated the conditions of their probation or parole.

From 1986 to 1987 the number of unconvicted adult males increased 5%. Unconvicted inmates include those on trial or awaiting arraignment or trial.

Demographic characteristics

Males accounted for 92% of the jail inmate population (table 3). The adult male inmate population increased 8% between 1986 and 1987 and 31% since 1983. The number of adult female inmates in local jails increased 53% since 1983. An estimated ... in every 318 adult males and 1 in every 3,924 adult females residing in the United States were in a local jail on June 30, 1987.

White inmates made up 57% of the jail population; blacks, 42%; and other races (Native Americans, Aleuts, Asians, and Pacific Islanders), 1%.

The Hispanic percentage of the jail population remained unchanged from 1986 to 1987 at 14%.

Population movement

During the year ending June 30, 1987, there were an estimated 17 million admissions and releases from local jails, about equally divided between the two categories (table 4). The estimated volume of releases increased by about 6% between 1983 and 1987. Adults comprised 99% of admissions and releases in each year since 1983. Total admissions and releases for the year ending June 30, 1987, were 44,103 for juvenile females, 147,537 for juvenile males, 1.7 million for adult females, and 15.1 million for adult males.

Occupancy

The number of jail inmates increased 32% since 1983, while the total rated capacity of the Nation's jails rose 15% (table 5). Between 1983 and 1987 the percent of rated capacity occupied rose 13 percentage points to 98%.

| Table 1. Jail population: One-day counts and average daily population, by legal status and sex, 1983, 1986, 1987 | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| | Number of jail inmates | | | Percent change from: | |
| | National Jail Census 1983 | Annual Survey of Jails 1986 | 1987 | 1983-87 | 1986-87 |
| One-day counts | | | | | |
| All inmates | 223,551 | 274,444 | 295,873 | 32% | 8% |
| Adults | 221,815 | 272,736 | 294,092 | 33 | 8 |
| Male | 206,163 | 251,235 | 270,172 | 31 | 8 |
| Female | 15,652 | 21,501 | 23,920 | 53 | 11 |
| Juveniles* | 1,733 | 1,708 | 1,781 | 3 | 4 |
| Average daily population | | | | | |
| All inmates | 227,541 | 265,517 | 290,300 | 28% | 9% |
| Adults | 225,781 | 264,113 | 288,725 | 28 | 9 |
| Male | 210,451 | 243,143 | 264,929 | 26 | 9 |
| Female | 15,330 | 20,970 | 23,796 | 55 | 13 |
| Juveniles* | 1,760 | 1,404 | 1,575 | -11 | 12 |

Note: Data for 1-day counts are for June 30 of each year.

*Juveniles are persons defined by State statute as being under a certain age, usually 18, and subject initially to juvenile court authority

even if tried as adults in criminal court. Because fewer than 1% of the jail population were juveniles, caution must be used in interpreting any changes over time.

| Table 2. Conviction status of adult jail inmates, by sex, 1983, 1986, 1987 | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|--|
| | Number of jail inmates | | | |
| | National Jail Census 1983 | Annual Survey of Jails 1986 | 1987 | |
| Total number of adults with known conviction status | 221,644 | 269,179 | 289,495 | |
| Convicted | 107,660 | 127,067 | 139,394 | |
| Male | 100,557 | 117,100 | 128,818 | |
| Female | 7,103 | 9,967 | 10,576 | |
| Unconvicted | 113,984 | 142,112 | 150,101 | |
| Male | 105,459 | 130,806 | 137,213 | |
| Female | 8,525 | 11,306 | 12,888 | |

Note: Data are for June 30 of each year.

| Table 3. Demographic characteristics of jail inmates, 1986 and 1987 | | |
|---|-------------------------|------|
| Characteristic | Percent of jail inmates | |
| | 1986 | 1987 |
| Sex | | |
| Total | 100% | 100% |
| Male | 92 | 92 |
| Female | 8 | 8 |
| Race | | |
| White | 58% | 57% |
| Male | 54 | 53 |
| Female | 4 | 4 |
| Black | 41% | 42% |
| Male | 37 | 38 |
| Female | 3 | 4 |
| Other* | 1% | 1% |
| Male | 1 | 1 |
| Female | -- | -- |
| Ethnicity | | |
| Hispanic | 14% | 14% |
| Male | 13 | 13 |
| Female | 1 | 1 |
| Non-Hispanic | 86% | 86% |
| Male | 80 | 79 |
| Female | 7 | 7 |

Note: Data are for June 30 of each year. Sex of all inmates was reported in both years. Race and ethnicity were reported for 97% of the inmates in 1986 and for 93% in 1987. Percentages may not add to total because of rounding.

--Less than 0.5%.

*Native Americans, Aleuts, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

Table 4. Annual jail admissions and releases, by legal status and sex, 1983, 1986, 1987

| | Number of admissions/releases | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| | National Jail Census | Annual Survey of Jails | |
| | 1983 | 1986 | 1987 |
| Admissions, total | 8,084,344 | 8,354,032 | 8,827,200 |
| Adults | 7,978,978 | 8,261,178 | 8,529,983 |
| Male | 7,270,863 | 7,410,557 | 7,870,785 |
| Female | 708,315 | 851,119 | 859,218 |
| Juveniles* | 105,366 | 92,856 | 97,217 |
| Male | 88,850 | 72,048 | 74,970 |
| Female | 18,516 | 20,810 | 22,247 |
| Releases, total | 7,941,236 | 8,284,676 | 8,408,914 |
| Adults | 7,837,158 | 8,193,124 | 8,314,491 |
| Male | 7,145,818 | 7,342,940 | 7,469,188 |
| Female | 691,338 | 850,184 | 845,303 |
| Juveniles* | 104,080 | 91,552 | 94,423 |
| Male | 85,564 | 70,442 | 72,567 |
| Female | 18,516 | 21,110 | 21,856 |

Note: Data are for the year ending June 30.
 *Juveniles are persons defined by State statute as being under a certain age, usually 18, and subject initially to juvenile court authority even if tried as adults in criminal court.

Characteristics of jurisdictions with large jail populations

On June 30, 1987, over three-fourths of the Nation's jail population were housed in the jails of 358 jurisdictions, each with an average daily population of at least 100 inmates. Together they accounted for 611 jails, 1 fewer than in 1986. They held 224,811 inmates, a 9% increase over 1986 and a 34% increase since 1983.

The Nation's 25 largest jurisdictions had average daily populations ranging from 1,597 to 17,115 (table 6). Nine of these jurisdictions were located in California, and three were in Florida.

Inmates held for other authorities

Approximately 87% of the jurisdictions with large jail populations had one or more jails holding inmates for other authorities, about the same as in 1986 (table 7). About 77% of the jurisdictions with large jail populations that were holding inmates for other authorities were holding them for State authorities.

The percent of inmates in jurisdictions with large jail populations held for other authorities was 11% in 1986 and 12% in 1987.

Of those jurisdictions with large jail populations, 44% were holding inmates because of crowding elsewhere. Of the 26,838 inmates held for other authorities in 1987, 42%, or 11,257, were being held because of crowding elsewhere, principally in State prisons.

Table 5. Jail capacity and occupancy, 1983, 1986, 1987

| | National Jail Census | Annual Survey of Jails | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| | 1983 | 1986 | 1987 |
| | | | |
| Number of inmates | 223,551 | 274,444 | 295,873 |
| Rated capacity of jails | 261,556 | 285,726 | 301,198 |
| Percent of rated capacity occupied | 85% | 96% | 98% |

Note: Data are for June 30 of each year.

Table 6. Twenty-five largest jurisdictions: Average daily population and 1-day count, June 30, 1987

| Jurisdiction | Average daily population, 1987 ^a | One-day count, June 30, 1987 |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Los Angeles County, Calif. | 17,115 | 18,593 |
| New York City, N.Y. ^b | 10,792 | 11,083 |
| Cook County, Ill. | 5,655 | 5,745 |
| Harris County, Tex. | 4,498 | 4,549 |
| Philadelphia County, Pa. | 4,185 | 3,938 |
| Dade County, Fla. | 3,491 | 3,753 |
| San Diego County, Calif. | 3,452 | 3,535 |
| Orange County, Calif. | 3,250 | 3,471 |
| Maricopa County, Ariz. | 3,228 | 3,168 |
| Santa Clara County, Calif. | 3,086 | 3,094 |
| Dallas County, Tex. | 2,887 | 2,785 |
| Alameda County, Calif. | 2,729 | 2,779 |
| Orleans Parish, La. ^c | 2,652 | 2,855 |
| Shelby County, Tenn. | 2,536 | 2,562 |
| Kern County, Calif. | 2,178 | 2,180 |
| Baltimore City, Md. | 2,177 | 2,296 |
| Sacramento County, Calif. | 1,998 | 2,071 |
| Orange County, Fla. | 1,951 | 1,980 |
| Broward County, Fla. | 1,893 | 2,042 |
| San Bernardino County, Calif. | 1,850 | 1,907 |
| Washington, D.C. | 1,882 | 1,551 |
| Tarrant County, Tex. | 1,873 | 1,798 |
| Fulton County, Ga. | 1,663 | 1,755 |
| San Francisco County/City, Calif. | 1,851 | 1,542 |
| Wayne County, Mich. | 1,597 | 1,673 |

^aFor the year ending June 30, 1987.
^bData for two jails in New York, N.Y., are from 1986.
^cData for jails in New Orleans, La., are from 1985.

**Table 7. Jurisdictions with large jail populations:
Impact of inmates held for other authorities, 1986 and 1987**

| | Number of jurisdictions/inmates | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------|
| | 1986 | 1987 |
| Jurisdictions with large jail populations | 361 | 358 |
| Jurisdictions holding inmates for other authorities:* | 311 | 311 |
| Federal | 231 | 183 |
| State | 233 | 240 |
| Local | 159 | 165 |
| All inmates in jurisdictions with large jail populations | 207,007 | 224,811 |
| Inmates being held for other authorities: | 23,170 | 26,838 |
| Federal | 3,668 | 4,441 |
| State | 16,835 | 19,438 |
| Local | 2,667 | 2,959 |

Note: Data are for June 30 of each year and cover all jurisdictions with an average daily inmate population of 100 or more in the 1983 jail census.

*Detail adds to more than total because some jurisdictions hold inmates for more than one authority.

Jurisdictions under court order

Between 1986 and 1987 the rated capacity of jurisdictions with large jail populations increased by 6% (table 8). Although an estimated 98% of the rated capacity of the Nation's jails was occupied on June 30, 1987, occupancy exceeded rated capacity by about 11% among jurisdictions with large jail populations. About 28% (102) of the jurisdictions with large jail populations had at least one jail under court order to reduce the number of resident inmates.

Thirty-three percent (118) of the jurisdictions with large jail populations reported that they were under court order to improve one or more conditions of confinement (table 9). Among these jurisdictions, 84% had one or more jails cited for crowded living units, 56% for inadequate recreational facilities and services, and 52% for deficient medical facilities and services.

Table 8. Jurisdictions with large jail populations: Rated capacity and percent of capacity occupied, 1986 and 1987

| Jurisdictions with large jail populations | Number of jurisdictions | | Rated capacity | | Number of jail inmates | | Percent of capacity occupied | |
|---|-------------------------|------|----------------|---------|------------------------|---------|------------------------------|------|
| | 1986 | 1987 | 1986 | 1987 | 1986 | 1987 | 1986 | 1987 |
| Total | 361 | 358 | 191,069 | 203,457 | 207,007 | 224,811 | 108% | 111% |
| Jurisdictions without a jail under court order to reduce population | 259 | 256 | 108,754 | 104,369 | 120,042 | 110,580 | 110 | 106 |
| Jurisdictions with at least one jail under court order to reduce population | 102 | 102 | 82,315 | 99,088 | 86,965 | 114,231 | 106 | 115 |

Note: Data are for June 30 of each year and cover all jurisdictions with an average daily inmate population of 100 or more in the 1983 jail census.

Table 9. Jurisdictions with large jail populations: Number of jurisdictions under court order to reduce population or to improve conditions of confinement, 1987

| | Number of jurisdictions with large jail populations | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Total | Ordered to limit population | Not ordered to limit population |
| Total | 358 | 102 | 256 |
| Jurisdictions under court order citing specific conditions of confinement | 118 | 94 | 24 |
| Subject of court order: | | | |
| Crowded living units | 99 | 87 | 12 |
| Recreational facilities | 66 | 51 | 15 |
| Medical facilities or services | 61 | 46 | 15 |
| Visitation practices or policies | 51 | 39 | 12 |
| Disciplinary procedures or policies | 50 | 38 | 12 |
| Food service (quantity or quality) | 38 | 28 | 10 |
| Administrative segregation procedures or policies | 34 | 29 | 5 |
| Staffing patterns | 53 | 40 | 13 |
| Grievance procedures or policies | 48 | 37 | 11 |
| Education or training programs | 40 | 27 | 13 |
| Fire hazards | 30 | 26 | 4 |
| Counseling programs | 33 | 24 | 9 |
| Other | 21 | 17 | 4 |

Note: Data are for June 30, 1987, and cover all jurisdictions with an average daily inmate population of 100 or more in the 1983 jail census. Includes only jurisdictions with 1 or more jails under court order. Some jurisdictions had a jail or jails under court order for more than one reason.

Inmate deaths

Approximately 41% of the jurisdictions with large jail populations reported at least one jail with an inmate death during the year ending June 30, 1987, up from 33% in 1986 (table 10).

In jurisdictions with large jail populations in 1987, the most common cause of death was natural causes. Of the 312 inmate deaths in 1987, 55% were by natural causes, 36% were suicides, 5% were from injuries caused by other persons, and 4% were by accidents and undetermined causes.

Methodology

The 1987 Annual Survey of Jails was the fifth such survey in a series sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The first was conducted in 1982. Complete enumerations of the Nation's jails are conducted every 5 years. Annual surveys—which collect data on all jails in jurisdictions with 100 or

more jail inmates and on a sample of all other jails—are done in each of the 4 years between full censuses. The reference date for the 1987 survey was June 30, 1987. Full censuses were done on February 15, 1978, and June 30, 1983.

A local jail is a facility that holds inmates beyond arraignment, usually for more than 48 hours, and is administered by local officials. Specifically excluded from the count were temporary lockups that house persons for less than 48 hours, Federal- or State-administered facilities, privately operated facilities, and the combined jail-prison systems of Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The 1987 survey included 1,135 total jails in 866 jurisdictions. A jurisdiction is a county, municipality, or township that administers one or more local jails. The jails in 358 jurisdictions were automatically included in the survey because the average daily inmate population in

these jurisdictions was 100 or more in the 1983 jail census. The jurisdictions with large jail populations, referred to as certainly jurisdictions, accounted for 611 jails and 224,811 inmates, or 76% of the estimated inmate population on June 30, 1987. Information referring to these certainly jurisdictions is presented at the jurisdiction level. In previous years these data were presented for individual jails; therefore, comparison with earlier figures is not appropriate. The other jurisdictions surveyed constituted a stratified random sample of those jurisdictions whose average daily population was less than 100 in the 1983 jail census.

Data were obtained by mailed questionnaires. Two followup mailings and phone calls were used to encourage reporting. The response rate was 95% for jails not included in the certainly jurisdictions. Jails in jurisdictions with large jail populations responded at a rate of 97%.

National estimates for the inmate population on June 30, 1987, were produced by sex, race, legal status, and conviction status; for the average daily population during the year ending June 30, 1987, by sex and legal status; and for admissions and releases during the year ending June 30, 1987, by sex and legal status. National estimates were also produced for rated capacity. Administrators of jails in jurisdictions with large jail populations provided counts of inmates held for other authorities, inmate deaths, and jails under court order.

Except for racial and ethnic characteristics, data from the 1986 Annual Survey of Jails were used to estimate individual items of data not available from 33 respondents in 1987. Data from the 1985 jail sample survey were used to estimate individual items of data not available from 10 respondents in 1987.

National estimates have an associated sampling error (standard error) because jails with average daily populations of less than 100 were included in the survey on a sample basis. Results presented in this bulletin were tested to determine whether or not statistical significance could be associated with observed differences between values. Differences were tested to ascertain whether they were significant at 2.0 standard errors (the 95% confidence level) or higher. Differences mentioned in the text meet or exceed this 95% confidence level.

Table 10. Jurisdictions with large jail populations: Inmate deaths during 1986 and 1987

| | Jurisdictions reporting deaths ^a | | Inmate deaths | |
|-----------------------------|---|------|---------------|------|
| | 1986 | 1987 | 1986 | 1987 |
| Total | 120 | 147 | 277 | 312 |
| Cause of death: | | | | |
| Natural causes ^b | 66 | 88 | 145 | 173 |
| Suicide | 74 | 88 | 107 | 111 |
| Injury by another person | 6 | 13 | 11 | 16 |
| Other ^c | 10 | 10 | 14 | 12 |

Note: Data are for the year ending June 30 and cover all jurisdictions with an average daily inmate population of 100 or more in the 1983 jail census.
^aDetail adds to more than total because some jurisdictions reported more than one type of death.
^bIncludes 8 deaths attributed to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in 1986 and 29 deaths attributed to AIDS in 1987.
^cIncludes accidents and undetermined causes of death.

Appendix table. One-day counts and average daily population of jail inmates, 1978, 1983-87

| | Number of jail inmates | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | National Jail Census | | Annual Survey of Jails | | | |
| | 1978 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 |
| One-day counts | | | | | | |
| All inmates | 158,394 | 223,551 | 234,500 | 256,615 | 274,444 | 295,873 |
| Adults | 156,783 | 221,815 | 233,018 | 254,986 | 272,736 | 294,092 |
| Male | 147,506 | 206,163 | 216,275 | 235,909 | 251,236 | 270,172 |
| Female | 9,277 | 15,652 | 16,743 | 19,077 | 21,501 | 23,920 |
| Juveniles* | 1,611 | 1,736 | 1,482 | 1,629 | 1,708 | 1,781 |
| Average daily population | | | | | | |
| All inmates | 157,930 | 227,541 | 230,641 | 265,010 | 265,517 | 290,300 |
| Adults | 156,190 | 225,781 | 228,944 | 263,543 | 264,113 | 288,725 |
| Male | 146,312 | 210,451 | 212,749 | 244,711 | 243,143 | 264,929 |
| Female | 9,878 | 15,330 | 16,195 | 18,832 | 20,970 | 23,796 |
| Juveniles* | 1,740 | 1,760 | 1,697 | 1,467 | 1,404 | 1,575 |

Note: Data for 1-day counts are for February 15, 1978, and for June 30 for the years 1983-87. Juveniles are persons defined by State statute as being under a certain age, usually 18, and subject initially to juvenile court authority even if tried as adults in criminal court. Because fewer than 1% of the jail population were juveniles, caution must be used in interpreting any changes over time.

Two measures of inmate population are used: the average daily population for the year ending June 30 and the inmate count on June 30 of each year. The average daily inmate population balances out any extraordinary events that may render the 1-day count atypical. The 1-day count is useful because some characteristics of the inmate population--such as race, ethnicity, and detention status--can be obtained for a specific date, but may not be available on an annual basis.

State statutes and judicial practices allow juveniles to be incarcerated in adult jails and prisons under a variety of circumstances. Juveniles are persons who are defined by State statute as being under a certain age, usually 18 years, and who are initially subject to juvenile court authority even if tried as adults in criminal court. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 requires sight and sound separation from adults for those juveniles not tried as adults in criminal court but held in adult jails. A 1980 amendment to that 1974 act requires the removal of juveniles from local jails, except those juveniles who are tried as adults on criminal felonies. The proportion of juveniles who were housed in adult jails in accordance with these guidelines is not available.

All calculations in this report involving general population figures used Bureau of the Census estimates of the population for July 1, 1987, reported in "Current Population Reports," Series P-25, No. 1024.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared principally by BJS staff. This bulletin was written by Susan Kline. Statistical assistance was provided by James Stephan, Thomas Hester, and Sophie Bowen. This bulletin was edited by Thomas Hester. Report production was administered by Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, assisted by Jeanne Harris and Yvonne Shields. The sample design and data collection were carried out by Lisa McNella, Betty Ford, Ellen Rhodes, Martha Greene, Linda Huang, and Carma Hogue of the U.S. Bureau of the Census under the direction of Diana Cull.

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- National Crime Survey (annual)
- Corrections (annual)
- Juvenile corrections (annual)
- Courts (annual)
- Privacy and security of criminal history information and information policy
- Federal statistics (annual)
- BJS bulletins and special reports (approximately twice a month)
- Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics (annual)

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